

HALL CASE SHOWS HOW SINS OF FEW MAKE MANY SUFFER, SAYS STRATON

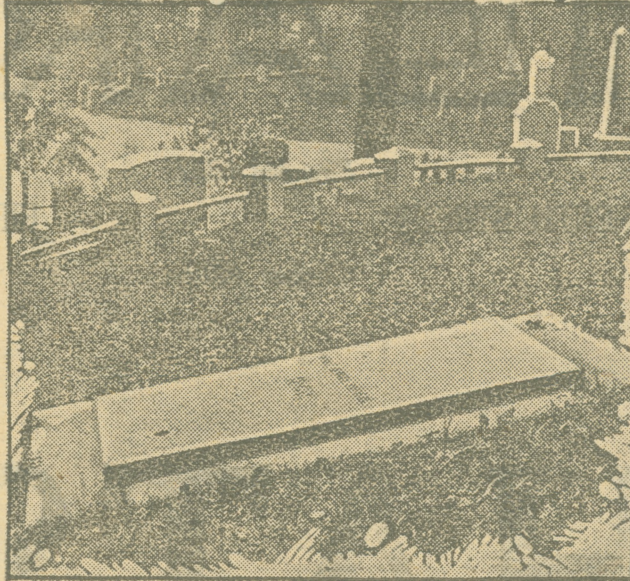
THE HALL-MILLS CASE

A DAILY PICTURE STORY OF
THE MYSTERIOUS JERSEY TRAGEDY

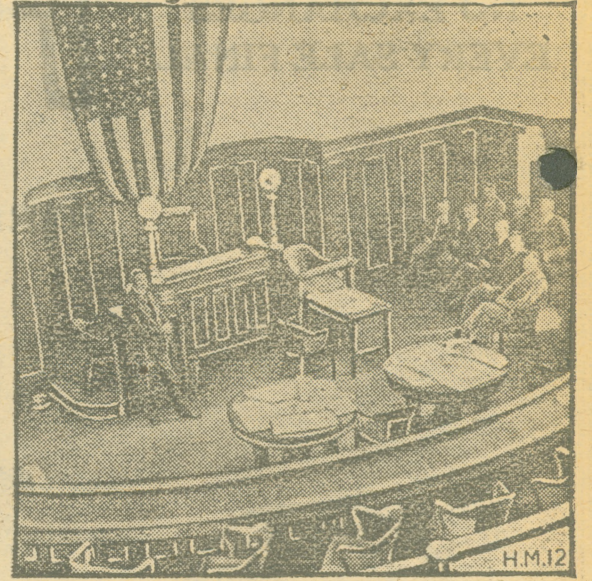
WATCH FOR
TOMORROW'S INSTALLMENT



After four years, the body of Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills was exhumed from its resting place in Van Liew Cemetery, on the outskirts of New Brunswick, and subjected to an autopsy which showed her tongue had been cut from her head after she had been killed.

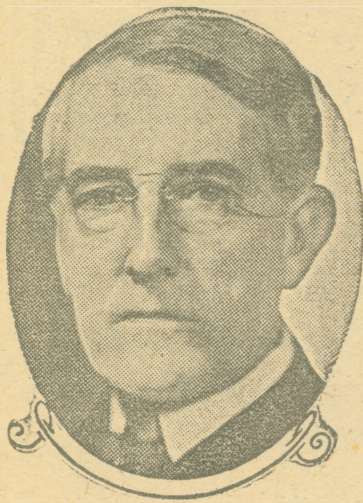


In striking contrast to the unmarked grave of the woman is that of the minister, whose body has been lying in the Stevens family vault at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, located in a convenient, well-cared plot snuggling on the Fort Hamilton Parkway side of the burying ground.



In this room Mrs. Hall, her brothers, Willie and Henry Stevens, and her cousin, Henry Carpenter, will stage their flight to escape the electric chair to which the state of New Jersey would send them if their guilt of murder is proven to a jury's satisfaction.

WHY I AM WILLING TO WRITE MY COMMENTS ON THIS SAD AND SHOCKING TRAGEDY



JOHN ROACH STRATON, D. D.

When the invitation from The GRAPHIC to write on the Hall-Mills case came to me through my friend, the Rev. Dr. Ralph Welles Keeler, pastor of the Crawford Memorial Church of New York and religious news editor of The GRAPHIC, I was given the assurance that The GRAPHIC would print my comments precisely as I wrote them, and that the paper desired to do a service for God and man by opening its columns for lessons in right living and straight thinking, in the light of this terrible tragedy, which, because of the prominence of those connected with it and the deplorable conditions that brought it forth, has centered the grieved and amazed attention of the whole world.

JOHN ROACH STRATON.

Dr. Straton Likens Victims' Families to Bible Characters

By REV. JOHN ROACH STRATON, D. D.

Pastor Calvary Baptist Church, New York (Copyright, 1926, The New York Evening GRAPHIC. All rights reserved. Reproduction prohibited.)

The papers in reporting the Hall-Mills murder trial all commented upon the pathetic figure which the daughter of the slain woman made upon the witness stand.

This poor child, drawn by inexorable fate into the remorseless maelstrom of this tragedy, broke down and wept as she testified about her slain mother. Who can contemplate such a picture without finding tears in his own eyes?

How Innocent Suffer

We have in this aspect of the case a pathetic but striking illustration of the fact that the innocent are often involved in the sufferings caused by the misdeeds of the guilty.

Scripture truly teaches that "No man liveth to him-

self and no man dieth to himself."

When the prophet Jonah disobeyed God and sought to flee from the Divine presence and from the discharge of his own duty, he involved all who were in the ship in which he tried to flee to Tarshish.

Storm Overtakes Jonah

When the storm overtook them and they were all about to go down, it is written that the seamen "said every one to his fellow, come and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us."

And when the lot fell upon Jonah and these distressed and endangered seamen came to him, he said unto them, as recorded in Scripture, "Take me up and cast me forth into the sea, so shall the sea be calm under you, for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you."

One Sins, Many Pay

And so it ever is. We are born into this world to a social and not to a solitary existence, and whether we desire or not, our lives grapple other lives about us with a thousand invisible hands, for the

truth of unconscious influence is one of the profoundest truths of life.

Kipling wrote in his "Tomlinson":—"The sins we do by two and two, Must be paid for one by one."

Yes, the individual does have to pay for his own sins, but a part of the terrible price which he pays is the consciousness that he drags others down with him.

Warning in Hall Case

So terrible has been this Hall-Mills tragedy, and so many-sided the evils connected with it, that we have the right to take from its ghastly contents these lessons that may serve the human race as solemn warnings against surrendering to such follies and sins.

Should it not strengthen us to resist temptation, when it comes knocking at our own doors, to realize that the results of our transgressions will involve others in suffering and sorrow, and, therefore, that the effects of sin will be eternal?

The American heart is surely touched with sympathy and grief

as it sees the happiness of innocent women and strong men, and even children, wrecked and ruined, as it beholds the touching spectacle of homes broken up, the

good name of honored families smirched forever, reproach brought upon God's house, the officers of

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